(SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The amount has not yet been recovered. M/s. ITC Ltd. have filed a writ petition in the Allahabad High Court and the matter is sub-judice.

Customs duty racket

*379. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-crore racket involving evasion of customs duty with the alleged connivance of the Customs staff at the cargo complex near the Indira Gandhi International Airport has been busted on the 11th August, 1988 as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of 12th August, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item in the 'Hindusan Times' of 12th August, 1988 regarding a multi-crore racket involving evasion of customs duty at the Air Cargo Complex near Indira Gandhi International Airport. The racket involving evasion of customs duty of about Rs. 4.6 crores was detected by the customs authorities at the air cargo complex during the last week of July, 1988. The racket involved, *inter alia*, the use of forged duty-paid stamps of a nationalised bank and the signatures of the bank officials as well as the stamps and signture of a customs clerk to falsely show that customs duty in repect of the consignments sought to be cleared through customs had been paid into the bank. On the basis of this forged evidence of payment of duty, the goods had been cleared without duty actually having been paid. During the course of their investigations, the Customs officers seized film rolls and zippers totally valued at Rs. 1.7 crores (approx.). They also searched various business and residential premises and seized, *inter alia*, 21,000 imported film rols believed to have been cleared without payment of duty. Three persons believed to have been involved in the racket, including a daily wage earner working in the Customs Office, were arrested by Customs and produced before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

As the racket disclosed also forgery and fraud which are offences under the Indian Penal Code copies of the relevant documents and records were handed over to the CBI on 8-8-88 and a formal communication regarding the handling over of the documents to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was sent to the CBI on 9-8-88. During the course of their investigations, the CBI have searched some more premises and registered some complaints. The investigations by the CBI are in progress. The alleged connivance of Customs officials in the matter is being looked into by the CBI.

Central Help to Gujarat to curb indiscipline in Police

*380. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what help the Central Government extended to Gujarat Government in curbing the recent indiscipline in Gujarat police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Parliamentary and military forces were made available to the Government of Gujarat by Central Government at their request.